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WASHINGTON (UPI) -- CONFIRMATION HEARINGS FOR ADM. STANSFIELD TURNER, PRESIDENT CARTER'S SECOND NOMINEE AS CIA DIRECTOR, ARE SLATED TO BEGIN FEB. 22.

UNLIKE THEODORE SORENSEN, CARTER'S ORIGINAL CHOICE, TURNER IS EXPECTED TO BE CONFIRMED EASILY.

SORENSEN, A FORMER AIDE TO PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, DRAMATICALLY WITHDREW HIS NOMINATION JAN. 17 SAYING IT WAS "CLEAR TO ME THAT A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE U.S. SENATE AND THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IS NOT YET READY TO ACCEPT ... AN OUTSIDER WHO BELIEVES AS I BELIEVE."

CARTER THEN TAPPED TURNER, A 53-YEAR OLD CAREER NAVAL OFFICER AND FORMER CLASSMATE OF THE PRESIDENT'S AT THE NAVAL ACADEMY IN ANNAPOLIS.

TURNER IS NOW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF ALLIED FORCES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE -- A POST HE HAS HELD SINCE 1975.

HE DOES NOT FACE MUCH HOSTILITY FROM THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HEADED BY SEN. DANIEL INOUE, D-HAWAII, OR THE SENATE IN GENERAL.

THE ONLY MUTED CRITICISM SO FAR SOUNDED IS ON HIS MILITARY BACKGROUND -- THAT A CIVILIAN SHOULD HOLD THE KEY POSTS OF CIA DIRECTOR AND DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE. THE LATTER COVERS ALL U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AND BRANCHES ENGAGED IN SUCH WORK.

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